

ROCK RIVER RECOVERY TMDL IMPLEMENTATION

Meeting Topic: Rock River Ag. Sector Team

Date: 02/07/2014

Meeting Notes

Agenda

Rock River Recovery Agriculture Sector Team Meeting

February 7 2014

Jefferson County UWEX, Jefferson, WI

9:00 – 9:15 am Welcome and Introductions

9:15—9:30 am Program Updates

9:30 –10:30 am Presentation on the Yahara WINS Project – Kathy Lake -- Madison, Metropolitan
Sewerage District

10:30 – 11:15 am Roundtable Discussion --- We would like to hear updates from you concerning
meetings with landowners and premittees and any progress in trading arrangements, adaptive
management, or other items.

11:15 – 11:30 am Next Steps

11:30 am Adjourn



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Attendees (Morton – Moderator):

Robert Bird (Dodge LCD)	Chris Clayont (River Alliance)	Mike Gilbertson (WI DNR)
Emily Jones (Clean Wisconsin)	Kathy Lake (MMSD)	Nancy Lannert (Jefferson LCD)
Andy Morton (WDNR)	Tom Petrie (Choice Nut.)	Mark Riedel (WI DNR)
Jim Rose (Waukesha LCD)	Tim Ryan (WI DNR)	Brian Smetana (Walworth LCD)
Joe Strupp (Jefferson LCD)	Tom Sweeney (Rock LCD)	Dennis Vollmer (Jefferson NRCS)
Andy Yench (UW Extensions)		

Notes (Riedel):

9:15 - Andy Morton: Introductions, Andy Yench distributed copies of the UW Extension and Wi DNR publication “Protect Our Lakes and Stream: Help Stop Polluted Runoff”. This publication is available online:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/WT/WT1000.pdf>

9:20 – Kathy Lake: Presentation: “Yahara WINS” – this is available online:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/tmdls/rockriver/>

Presentation covered a number of topics beginning with potential costs to upgrade Madison MET WWTP and looking to Adaptive Management as an alternative.

- Design and implement YAHARA WINS pilot study “Yahara Pride” to evaluate feasibility of A.M. – NW trib to Lake Mendota – Village of Waunakee, mixed development and ag.
 - o Numerous ag. BMP’s via demonstration farms and partners
 - o Establish relationships across multiple communities and stakeholder groups
 - o Review P sources in watershed, including in channel
 - o Stream monitoring & citizen monitoring
 - o Other P reduction measures
 - Manure digester
 - P capture at WWTP
- Work ongoing and results are being assessed to guide development of A.M. plan in 2015
- Contact: Kathy Lake, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
 - o Kathyl@madsewer.org
 - o 608-222.1201 ext. 278



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10:00 – Andy Morton: Questions and comments

- 3rd large scale watershed project in L. Mendota Watershed w/DNR involvement
- How is monitoring paid for? Various groups providing financial and technical support
- Trading vs. A.M. – general discussion of benefits. In this case – A.M. can be converted to Trading if that option proves more advantageous
- Dollars\$\$\$? Is it worth it to producers?
- Credit market – does MMSD anticipate one developing?
- Runoff volumes being treated? Most loading comes during spring snow melt and large rains
- Annual report for Yahara Wins expected in a few weeks
- There are legal/contracting concerns among farmers and potential partners that need to be considered
- Commodity prices? How does this affect farmer participation?
- Participants asked Would DNR develop a standard and transparent template cost share/contract agreement to reduce fear and increase participation?
- WI Land Conservation Meeting March 10-12

10:40 – 10:55: Break

10:55 – 12:30: Open forum Q/A discussions

- Nature of future Ag. Sector Team meetings
 - o Focus on implementation
 - o Smaller meetings needed to facilitate partnerships between WWTP, LCD, and ag producers
 - Who to organize and how should they be structured?
 - Rock county example – Tom Sweeney invited permit holders – meeting was VERY beneficial and they are following up to explore potential trading/A.M. opportunities - the group was very supportive and interested in this example
 - How to implement across counties in the RRR watershed? County LCD personnel can initiate meetings on their own. Can DNR facilitate/assist?
 - WWTP and County LCD typically have had little interaction in the past
 - County LCD's desire info on sources and loadings, maps, etc.
 - o Larger regional general TMDL update meeting – this is already in general planning – updates will be posted on website and shared via email
 - e.g. "State of the Basin"
- Implementation



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- Turtle creek example – how are monitoring data updated to follow results of implementation projects? Case studies? Success Stories
 - Potential addition for RRR website
- Can county LCD's work with permit holders to establish one pilot project per county? Can WI DNR assist with this? DNR is currently drafting numbers and contacting permit holders to encourage exploring partnerships with LCD's. DNR will keep LCD's "in the loop" and follow up. LCD's can and should proceed on their own, as well.
- Aside from WPDES permit requirements - WI DNR has no actual involvement in any sort of contractual or project agreement between permit holders and private land owners to establish trading or A.M. arrangements.
- Spring and fall are tough times for LCD staff and farmers – try to arrange meetings in winter and summer
- Money is not necessarily the issue limiting adoption of agricultural BMPs and producer buy-in
 - Networking is important – relationships
 - Staff time to support – LCD staff have limited time/resources as it is...
- Observation – this is "point source driven – let permit holders drive the process"
 - However, there challenges to establishing communication in local communities, relationships, etc.
 - Role for WI DNR, UW Extension, and Rock River Coalition
 - Facilitation, meetings, introductions, etc
- County LCD's are VERY interested and want to pursue this – continue working locally to nurture relationships and identify possible partnerships.
- How were impaired streams listed?
 - Numeric targets, supporting W.Q. and monitoring data

12:30 - Adjourn

